



TARC NEWSLETTER

Oklahoma's leading information source on issues impacting the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families

February 2009

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Observers Holding Their Breaths as New Legislative Session Begins

By John F. Gajda, TARC Executive Director

Normally the first Monday in February is a date all of us who advocate for people with disabilities and their families in Oklahoma mark on our calendars because it is the start of the legislative session. This year that date, February 2nd, also happens to be Groundhog Day. This year just as everyone waits to see if the groundhog will see its shadow to predict the days left in winter, advocates will wait for the start of the legislative session to begin gauging the future climate for people with disabilities in Oklahoma. Will services grow or shrink? What new protections will be put into place or will any be weakened? Will there be things to look forward to or will we only be moving towards a darker future?

"This is a historic year in Oklahoma politics... The challenges of 2009 and beyond will require clear vision."

Governor Brad Henry,
2/2/09 State of the State Address

This year should prove to be far from what anyone would characterize as a routine legislative session:

- * It is the First Session of the 52nd Oklahoma Legislature. That means that there will be many new faces at the Capitol due to retirements, term limits, and unruly voters who just voted the old "villains" out last fall. The new members of the legislature will be filled with new ideas but little of the legislative history or why the Oklahoma State Government does some of what it does and how it goes about it.
- * For the first time in many years both houses of the Oklahoma legislature will have majority of Republican members. This means that both chambers will operate under Republican leadership. While disability issues are not and should not be a patrician issue, this shift in leadership means a change in rules and how business is conducted.
- * The Republican legislature will have to deal with a Democratic Governor who is term limited and cannot run for reelection to the office he currently holds. Already, it appears he may have some different priorities than legislative leadership.

Please see "Observers" on pg 2



TARC is committed to ensuring a high quality of life for Oklahomans with developmental disabilities through education, empowerment, support and advocacy. For additional information about TARC or to volunteer, contact us at:

16 East 16th Street, Suite 405, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119-4447
www.ddadvocacy.net tarc@ddadvocacy.net 918-582-8272/800-688-8272 918-582-3628(Fax)

* Oklahoma has finally caught up with the rest of the country and this year will be facing a budget short-fall, as most other states have already experienced, that will be at least \$600 million. The Oklahoma legislature must pass a balanced budget and all wonder what tricks they will use to do that. Cuts in funding to state agencies? Tax increases? Fee increases? Taping the Rainy Day Fund?

Everyone is waiting to see what impact these factors have. While all these factors alone would make the legislature's job of approving a budget a cliff hanger for observers, there are over 2,500 bills on every imaginable topic that have been filed for the legislature to consider.

Members of the Oklahoma State Senate filed 1,240 bills and 42 joint resolutions and there were 1,270 bills, 46 joint resolutions, and six concurrent resolutions filed in the Oklahoma House of Representatives for the 2009 legislative session.

A much smaller number are of special interest to disability advocates because they would impact rights, services and the daily lives of people with disabilities and their families in Oklahoma. The following are those bills that we have culled from the large number of bills filed. The status listed is as of the opening of the legislature on February 2, 2009. Appropriation bills are not included in this list although they are of great importance for the lives of many individuals.

The TARC Newsletter hopes to follow these bills as they move through the legislative process and each month update the statutes. Note the deadlines that bills must meet listed elsewhere in this newsletter. If history repeats itself, most bills will become inactive for failure to advance.

Bill	Principal Authors	Status	Description
HB 1019	Wright, John A. (H)	Assignment to Administrative Rules and Agency Oversight Committee	Recreates the Group Homes for Persons with Developmental or Physical Disabilities Advisory Board.
HB 1062	Sherrer, Ben (H)	Assignment to Appropriations & Budget Committee	Expands the list of employees to whom the State Board of Education may provide annual salary bonuses to include orientation and mobility instructors.
HB 1312	Brown, Mike (H)	House Committee-Do Not Pass	Creates Nick's Law, requiring any individual or group health benefit plan to provide coverage for the treatment of an autistic disorder. The bill limits treatment to that which is prescribed by the insured individuals treating physician. It limits coverage to persons under age 21 and sets maximum benefit of \$50,000 per year for behavioral therapy.
HB 1512	Blackwell, Gus (H)	House Committee-Laid Over	Exempts certain schools meeting certain standards from liability for not providing necessary services to autistic children.
HB 1519	Inman, Scott (H)	Assignment to Public Health and Social Services Committee	Changes the Perspective Services for Vulnerable Adults Act to the Perspective Services for Vulnerable Persons Act and broadens sections and definitions of what constitutes a vulnerable person and what constitutes abuse, neglect, or other mistreatment of that person.
HB 1627	Pittman, Anastasia (H)	Assignment to Human Services Committee	Modifies language and reporting order for the Protective Services for Vulnerable Adults Act.

HB 1628	Pittman, Anastasia (H)	Assignment to Appropriations & Budget Committee	Requires that the evaluation of a student with a visual impairment be joined by a teacher certified in the education of students with visual impairment. The bill also directs the State Department of Education to offer teachers, administrators and personnel training in aspects and issues of the visually impaired.
HB 1761	Enns, John (H)	Assignment to Wildlife Committee	Allows for hunting with a traditional longbow with a mechanical bow draw device to hold the bow mechanically at full or partial draw for people with permanent disabilities.
HB 1763	Enns, John (H)	Assignment to Common Education Committee	Requires the Department of Education to provide training to special education due process hearing officers to ensure that they are knowledgeable in special education law and legal procedure.
HB 1778	Jones, Tad (H)	Assignment to Appropriations & Budget Committee	Makes an appropriation of \$450,000 to the Rural Infant Simulation Environment Program for capital expenditures and operations for school designed to serve children with disabilities from birth to 5 years of age.
HB 1841	Wallace, Collins (H)	Assignment to Economic Development and Financial Services	Creates Nick's Law, requiring any individual or group health benefit plan, to provide coverage for the treatment of an autistic disorder. The bill limits treatment to that which is prescribed by the insured individual's treating physician. It limits coverage to persons under age 21. It sets a maximum benefit of \$75,000 per year for behavioral therapy.
HB 1842	Duncan, Rex (H)	Assignment to Economic Development & Financial Services	Creates the Oklahoma Licensed Interpreter Act and the Oklahoma Board of Licensed Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing to regulate and enforce the practice of interpreting in accordance with the act. The bill makes it unlawful to practice interpreting in the state without a license.
HB 1887	Richardson, Phil (H)	Assignment to Judiciary Committee	Removes language prohibiting individuals who have been convicted or who entered a plea other than not guilty to a felony from being eligible for community sentencing. It modifies language related to a level of service inventory, allowing an offender with a moderate or high range on the inventory to be eligible for community punishments if the district attorney has consented to eligibility for an offender who has a mental illness or developmental disability or a co-occurring mental illness or substance abuse disorder.
HB 1893	Peterson, Pam (H)	Assignment to Human Services Committee	Authorizes the Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division to work corroboratively with other national, state and local agencies and community groups to establish a single-point-of-entry concept for aging and disability groups in Oklahoma, referred to as an Aging and Disability Resource Consortium Initiative.
HB 1968	Benge, Chris (H)	Assignment to Public Economic Development and Financial Services	Creates the Autism Services Improvement Act. (Shell Bill)

HB 1969	Benge, Chris (H)	Assignment to Economic Development and Financial Services Committee	Creates the Autism Services Act (Shell Bill)
HB 2004	Wright, Harold (H)	Assignment to Common Education Committee	The bill requires school administrators, teachers, and other school employees to be trained to recognize, accommodate, and assist students with mental health issues.
HB 2027	Steele, Kris (H)	House Committee-Committee Sub, Do Pass	Requires persons wishing to practice as a licensed behavior analyst or a licensed assistant behavior analyst to apply to the Developmental Disabilities Services Division within the Department of Human Services. The Measure also directs the University Hospitals Authority to use funds for primary care provider evaluation training for providers in the Sooner SUCCESS program to acquire skills necessary to evaluate children with autism spectrum disorders. It directs the Developmental Disabilities Services Division to establish an applied behavioral analysis research pilot project. The measure also directs the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to establish a program modeled after Early Foundations, an outreach program that provides early intensive behavioral intervention for children with autism.
HB 2126	Shelton, Mike (H)	Assignment to Common Education Committee	States that either a parent or teacher of a child or school district may initiate a request for an initial evaluation to determine if the child has a disability.
SB 0001	Gumm, Jay Paul (S)	Committee Assignment (Approved)	Creates Nick's Law which requires any individual or group health benefit plan to provide coverage for the treatment of an autistic disorder. The bill limits treatment to that which is prescribed by the insured individual's treating physician. It states that coverage must include all therapies, treatments, diagnoses, testing medicines and supplements prescribed by a licensed physician, including behavioral therapy. It sets a maximum benefit of \$75,000 per year for behavioral therapy.
SB 0036	Anderson, Patrick (S)	Committee Assignment (Approved)	Requires any individual or group health benefit plan to provide coverage for the treatment of an autistic disorder. The bill limits treatment to that which is prescribed by the insured individual's treating physician. The bill limits coverage to individuals under age 21. It states that coverage must include all therapies, treatments, diagnoses, testing, medicines and supplements prescribed by a licensed physician, including behavioral therapy. It sets a maximum benefit for behavioral therapy of \$75,000 per year for three years, unless clinical progress reports demonstrate that the child is in a period of steady skill acquisition.
SB 0046	Easley, Mary (S)	Committee Assignment (Approved)	Requires any individual or group health benefit plan to provide coverage for the treatment of an autistic disorder. It states that coverage is subject to a diagnosis of an autistic disorder by a licensed physician or behavioral practitioner. The bill limits coverage to individuals under age 21. Coverage must include all therapies, treatments, diagnoses, testing, medicines, and supplements prescribed by a licensed physician including behavioral therapy. It sets a maximum benefit for behavioral therapy of \$75,000 per year for three years.

SB 0051	Leftwich, Debbe (S)	Committee Assignment (Approved)	Grants a tax credit for expenditures made to purchase medically necessary foods used in the treatment of phenylketonuria.
SB 0307	Wilson, Jim (S)	Committee Assignment (Approved)	Directs that Oklahoma attorney general to intervene and represent a public school district in any legal proceeding to enforce state and federal laws relating to educating children with disabilities.
SB 0312	Leftwich, Debbe (S)	Committee Assignment (Approved)	Provides a sales tax exemption on hearing aids.
SB 0321	Anderson, Patrick (S)	Subcommittee-Do Pass as Amended	Authorizes the Aging Service Division of the Department of Human Services to collaborate with other national, state and local agencies to establish a single point-of-entry concept for aging and disability groups in the state, which is to be referred to as the Aging and Disability Resource Consortium Initiative.
SB 0351	Rice, Andrew (S)	Committee Assignment (Approved)	Requires reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable adults to be reported to the Department of Human Services and the municipal police department or county sheriff's office.
SB 0470	Gumm, Jay Paul (S)	Committee Assignment (Approved)	Places the burden of proof, the burden of production and the burden of persuasion in all proceedings related to the provision of free appropriate education for children with disabilities on the local educational agency responsible for providing the student's education.
SB 0479	Lamb, Todd (S)	Subcommittee-Do Pass as Amended	Modifies definition of "long-term care administrator" under the Nursing Home Care Act to exclude bed requirements as they relate to intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded. It exempts administrators providing health or habilitation services for mentally retarded or developmentally disabled persons from meeting current license requirements.
SB 0871	Russell, Steve (S)	Senate Introduction and First Reading	Modifies membership of the Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Advisory Council.
SB 0971	Sparks, John (S)	Senate Introduction and First Reading	Allowing related services personnel, as identified in policies for special education by the Department of Education, to be provided with the opportunity to participate in training applicable to their field that will enable them to maintain professional licensure.
SB 1057	Branan, Cliff (S)	Senate Introduction and First Reading	Modifies language related to rehabilitative education and training for the visually impaired.
SB 1097	Johnson, Constance (S)	Senate Introduction and First Reading	Modifies the membership of the Commission for Rehabilitation Services, increases its membership from three to seven.

OPTIONS FOR ADDRESSING OKLAHOMA STATE BUDGET SHORTFALLS



Oklahoma has now joined the vast majority of states that are projecting shortfalls for the upcoming budget year. Most analysts are predicting that the current recession will be relatively long and deep, ensuring that the state fiscal crisis may last several years.

During the last state fiscal crisis from FY '02—FY '04, state policy makers utilized a wide array of options at their disposal to balance the budget, including tapping into the Rainy Day Fund, enacting revenue enhancements and implementing budget cuts. We project that Oklahoma could face an estimated shortfall of some \$2.4 billion in the years ahead, assuming a budget downturn comparable in magnitude to the last one. Given the more severe turbulence in the current economy, state

policy makers will need to display a great deal of flexibility and willingness to utilize all the policy options at their disposal to keep the state budget afloat during the upcoming years.

The timing, extent, and terms of state fiscal relief as part of a federal economic stimulus package is the great wild card of the current budget situation. State fiscal relief of any substantial size will greatly ease Oklahoma's budget situation but is unlikely to eliminate the need for hard choices. The basic options for addressing budget shortfalls are to:

1. TAP THE RAINY DAY FUND

- The Rainy Day Fund was established to help stabilize the budget during economic downturns;
- With reserves of \$596 million, the Rainy Day Fund can partially fill anticipated shortfalls;
- Spending down reserve funds causes the least harm to the state's economy and population.

2. RAISE ADDITIONAL REVENUES

- The constitutional and political obstacles to raising taxes in Oklahoma are formidable;
- Other revenue-enhancement strategies can include raising fees, curtailing tax exemptions and incentives, or selling assets;
- The Legislature already adopted several "easy" one-time revenue-raising measures last year.

3. CUT BUDGETS

When downturns are extended and severe, cutting budgets involves harmful consequences for Oklahoma's citizens and economy:

- Vital state services and programs already face critical funding shortages;
- It is difficult to protect key agencies and services, such as education, health care, and public safety, that consume the

2009 Legislative Deadlines

Action	House	Senate
Session Begins	February 2	February 2
Deadline for reporting from committees of originating house	February 26	February 19
Deadline for approval of bill in house of origin	March 12	March 12
Deadline - Senate Bills	April 5	---
Deadline for reporting bills from committees in opposite house	April 9	April 2
Deadline for approval of bill in opposite house	April 23	April 23
Sine Die by 5 p.m.	May 25	May 25

lion's share of the state budget;

- Agencies are already struggling to absorb rising costs, new mandates, and flat funding this current budget year;
- Cutting budgets is economically harmful in a downturn, even compared to raising taxes;
- Economic downturns create increased demands for health and social services to assist vulnerable Oklahomans.

For the full length OK Policy issue brief, "What Do We Do Now? Options for Addressing State Budget Shortfalls", go to: www.okpolicy.org.

Source: Oklahoma Policy Institute

Governor Henry's FY '10 Budget

As the national economic downturn begins to have a growing impact on Oklahoma's economy, families, and public finances, Governor Brad Henry delivered his Executive Budget for the upcoming year, FY '10, on February 2, 2009.

Despite declining state revenues, the Governor was able to present a balanced \$7.084 billion budget without tax increases, across-the-board budget cuts, or use of the state's Rainy Day Fund. He did so by proposing over \$330 million of revenue-generating measures, including a number of fee increases, and almost \$50 million of targeted cuts to agency budgets.

While minimizing the extent of actual funding cuts, the Governor's budget was unable to fund increases in operating expenses and program growth for many agencies, which could lead to cutbacks in programs and services over the coming year.

Go to <http://okpolicy.org/governor-henry-fy10-executive-budget> to read OK Policy's budget brief examining the Governor's FY '10 budget. You can also download a detailed spreadsheet of the Governor's budget recommendations for each state agency.



Source: Oklahoma Policy Institute

2009 Legislative Primer Available

What is a conference committee? Why does it take so long for a bill to be passed? Who decides whether a health insurance bill will be heard? What is the "equalization board" and why is it so important?

As the 2009 Oklahoma Legislative session gets underway, a new, fully-updated publication from Oklahoma Policy Institute will help answer your questions

Whether you are a veteran legislator, a complete novice to Oklahoma politics, or anyone in between, the 2009 Legislative Overview will provide you invaluable information in a concise, user-friendly format.

To download a copy go to www.okpolicy.org and click on the 2009 Legislative Overview link on the right column.

Source: Oklahoma Policy Institute

Obama Posts Disabilities Agenda

"Disabilities" is one of twenty-four topics included in the Obama Administration's agenda posted on the White House Web Site shortly after the inauguration. Obama's plan discusses initiatives to improve education and employment opportunities for people with disabilities, supporting community-based living and ending discrimination. Autism is specifically addressed in the agenda, with a four-point plan to deal with growth in the disorder.

The White House disabilities agenda calls for providing Americans with disabilities "with the educational opportunities they need to succeed by funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, supporting early intervention for children with disabilities and universal screening, improving college opportunities for high school graduates with disabilities, and making college more affordable." Obama also seeks to "end discrimination and promote equal opportunity by restoring the Americans with Disabilities Act, increasing funding for enforcement, supporting the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, ensuring affordable, accessible health care for all and improving mental health care." The plan also seeks to "increase the employment rate of workers with disabilities by effectively implementing regulations that require the federal government and its contractors to employ people with disabilities, providing private-sector employers with resources to accommodate employees with disabilities, encouraging those employers to use existing tax benefits to hire more workers with disabilities and supporting small businesses owned by people with disabilities."

Finally, the plan calls for the Administration to "support independent, community-based living for Americans with disabilities by enforcing the Community Choice Act, which would allow Americans with significant disabilities the choice of living in their community rather than having to live in a nursing home or other institution, creating a voluntary, budget-neutral national insurance program to help adults who have or develop functional disabilities to remain independent and in their communities, and streamline the Social Security approval process."

You can find more information about The White House disabilities agenda at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/disabilities/>.

Oklahoma Youth Leadership Forum Accepts Applications Year Round

A select group of 25 teenagers, among the estimated 1.8 percent of the population across Oklahoma who have developmental disabilities, are chosen to attend the annual Youth Leadership Forum held every year in June at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha, Okla.

The week-long camp, sponsored by the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council, is a unique leadership training program for returning high school juniors and seniors. The goal of the program is to help prepare them for life after high school.

To be eligible to attend, a student must be an Oklahoma resident returning to high school for the next school year as a junior or senior, and have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. We assure all students can play an active part by providing staff support, nursing care, assisted technology and physical access to all activities. The camp is provided at no cost to accepted applicants.

The annual deadline is March 1st and applications are sought from potential delegates as well as staff members. More information about the program and application forms visit the ODDC Web site at www.okddc.ok.gov. Application forms are also available by calling ODDC at (405) 521-4984 or (800) 836-4470.

Reaching Across the Plains

2009 Down Syndrome Conference

TARC will once again be one of the sponsors of the 2009 Reaching Across the Plains Down Syndrome Conference. This event will take place in Oklahoma City at the Moore Norman Technology Center, South Penn Campus on March 7, 2009.

This year's conference will feature a number of resourceful workshop sessions for parents and caregivers of children or adults with Down syndrome and for the professionals that work with these individuals. For more information, please contact the Down Syndrome Association of Central OK at conferenceinfo@dsaco.org or (405) 330-5025



1,429 APPLICANTS WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES TO GET CRITICAL VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

The state Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), reopened vocational rehabilitation and employment services on Jan. 13, 2009 for 1,429 applicants on a waiting list for those whose disabilities are significant barriers to employment.

The Department identified sufficient funds to pay for services to clients placed on a waiting list from Jan. 19, 2007 through Nov. 1, 2008. Services will continue to be deferred for those who applied since Nov. 2, 2008 until funds are identified to cover the cost of their services.

The Federal Rehabilitation Act, which governs our vocational rehabilitation and employment programs, does not permit agencies to cap or limit services needed by current clients in order to go to work. Instead, they must control costs by delaying assistance to new applicants who are placed in three categories based on the significance of their disabilities.

When delays are required, services continue for those who are already agency clients in order to help them go to work as soon as possible. Only new applicants are placed on waiting lists as a cost control measure under the provisions of the federal law.

From Feb. 11, 2007 until Sept. 15, 2008, DRS' divisions of Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services completely closed services to new applicants in all three categories because funds were not available to pay for their services.

On Sept. 16, 2008, the agency reopened services for applicants in the first category with the most significant barriers to employment.

The partial reopening on Jan. 13, 2009 affected clients in a second category for those who face less significant work-related issues.

Applicants in a third category whose disabilities are not significant will remain on waiting lists at this time. If additional funding becomes available, these individuals will receive assistance based on the severity of their disabilities and the dates of applications.

For more information about the State Department of Rehabilitation Services, visit DRS Online at www.okdrs.gov or phone 1-800-845-8476. The number is accessible by telecommunications equipment for the deaf.



Easter Seals' Study Sheds New Light on Parents' Life-Long Fears, Anxieties and Critical Supports Needed to Raise a Child with Autism

Parents of children with autism are struggling with a host of worries that impact every aspect of their lives, and are particularly fearful that their family will lack the life-long supports needed to address the significant challenges of autism, according to a new study released today by Easter Seals and made possible by MassMutual Financial Group.

Easter Seals' *Living with Autism Study* results reveal parents raising children with autism are very concerned about the future independence of their children. In fact, they're far more concerned than parents of typically developing children -- nearly 80 percent say they're extremely or very concerned about their children's independence as an adult, compared to only 32 percent of other parents. This is especially true when it comes to their financial independence, quality of life, social and inter-personal connections, and employment and housing opportunities -- and with good reason.

"The study quantifies what we've heard anecdotally over the years," says Patricia Wright, Ph.D., MPH, Easter Seals national director, autism services. "The one consistent message Easter Seals hears from the families we serve -- after the initial apprehension and anxiety of learning their child has autism -- is an overwhelming concern about the life-long supports their child with autism may need to be independent."

Study Shows Parents' Hope for Independence . . . Financial and Otherwise

The nationwide study provides new insight into the ongoing challenges facing individuals and families living with autism, particularly their concerns about the future in relation to parents of typically developing children.

Parents of children living with autism are very concerned about their children fitting into society, with very few feeling their children will be able to:

- Make his or her own life decisions (14% compared to 65% of parents with typically developing children)
- Have friends in the community (17% compared to 57% of typical parents)
- Have a spouse or life partner (9% compared to 51% of typical parents)
- Be valued by their community (18% compared to 50% of typical parents)
- Participate in recreational activities (20% compared to 50% of typical parents)
- Children with autism also are less likely than their typically developing peers to have bank accounts (37% vs. 55%) and use electronic products like cell phones (9% vs. 41%) or MP3 players (23% vs. 49%) -- all tools of mainstream society.

They also express extreme financial strains and costs associated with caring for a child with autism, with more than half stating that the cost of caring for my child:

- Drains my family's current financial resources (52% compared to 13% of typical parents)
- Will drain my family's future finances (50% compared to 10% of typical parents)
- Will cause me to fall short of cash during retirement (54% compared to 13% of typical parents)
- Key to adult independence is employment, yet only 24% of teenagers with autism have looked for a job, compared to 77% of their typically developing peers. And 76% of parents of children with autism are concerned about their child's future employment, when only 35% of typical parents share this fear.

"Families living with autism face so many challenges on a daily basis," says John Chandler, senior vice president and chief marketing officer of MassMutual's U.S. Insurance Group. "But this study has really brought home for us how much stress they face when it comes to their current financial situation, the future of their child with autism, their other children and their own retirement."

Easter Seals worked with Harris Interactive, and in cooperation with the Autism Society of America, to conduct the *Living with Autism Study* and surveyed 1,652 parents of children who have autism and 917 parents of typically developing children about daily life, relationships, independence, education, housing, employment, finances and healthcare.

Easter Seals will use the study results to raise awareness of and advocate for the life-long services millions of families living with autism desperately need -- including school to work transitions, employment support, residential and community support, and financial planning.

"For parents of kids with autism, there are no simple answers," adds Wright. "There is an urgent need for increased funding and services -- especially for adults with autism. Easter Seals wants to help change all of this and make a difference for families living with autism today."

This Easter Seals' *Living with Autism Study* was conducted online within the United States by Harris Interactive on behalf of Easter Seals between June 16 and July 17, 2008 among 1,652 parents of children age 30 and under who have autism and 917 parents of typically developing children age 30 and under. No estimates of theoretical sampling error can be calculated; a full methodology is available.



TULSA ADVOCATES FOR THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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The TARC newsletter is published monthly by the Tulsa Advocates for the Rights of Citizens With Developmental Disabilities, Inc., to inform readers about issues and legislative action that affect adults and children with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals working in the field of developmental disabilities. The contents do not necessarily represent the official position of TARC.

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HELP TARC HELP FAMILIES-BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Families in Transition
Families in Transition is a support group for parents of adult children with developmental disabilities.

NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, February 11th
6:30-7:45 p.m.
Goldie's Patio Grill
4401 E. 31st St. in Tulsa

RSVP to Amie Farinella, 918-582-8272

Connections Asperger's Group

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, February 25th- 4:30 p.m.
Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.
The "Connections" Asperger's Group is a social skills group for adolescents and young adults with Asperger's Syndrome. The group meets monthly. Contact Sherilyn or Amie at 918-582-8272 for more information.

Hispanic Parents Support Group
El Grupo Hispano de Apoyo a Padres de Familia

Next Meeting: Monday, February 23rd
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church,
2720 S. 129th E. Ave., Tulsa

Contact Zaida at 918-582-8272 for more information.



links to support, to information, to friends.
Support Group for Adults with Asperger's Syndrome

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, February 18th
6:30-8:00 p.m.
Brookside Library, 1207 E. 45th Pl.

Links is a support group for adults with Asperger's Syndrome. Contact Amie Farinella, 918-582-8272 for more information.

Day Makers Activities group for adults with developmental disabilities
Contact: Amie, 918-582-8272

Tuesdays • 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Gatesway Foundation-Mabee Gym
1217 E. College in Broken Arrow

Thursdays • 1:00-2:30 p.m.
McClure Recreation Center
7440 E. 7th Street in Tulsa

MOMS & DADS SUPPORT GROUP

Next Meeting:
Thursday, February 26th
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church
4102 E. 61st St., Room B-8

The mission of the Moms & Dads Support Group is to nurture and support families whose children have a developmental disability, to encourage positive strategies in dealing with challenges, and to share in the joys of raising our children.

For more information, contact Sherilyn, 918-582-8272

1ST TULSA PEOPLE FIRST
Tulsa People First
TARC

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, February 10th
LuLu's Sweet Shop
8005-D S. Sheridan
Dinner-5:30 p.m.
*Meeting-6:00 p.m.
For more information, contact Amie at 918-582-8272
*Meeting will begin 30 minutes earlier than usual

Support Group for Families of Children with Special Needs in Sapulpa

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, February 17th, 6:15 p.m.
CREOKS Behavioral Health, 23 E. Ross in Sapulpa
Childcare is not provided, but please take advantage of Sapulpa's great Respite Care Program

For more information, contact Mindy Littlefield, 378-5632